

JIHLAVA, 26 March 2024

Jihlava VRT Terminal already has its shape

Správa železnic announced today in Jihlava the winner of the open architectural and urban design competition for the new terminal of the high-speed railway Jihlava VRT. From a total of 25 architectural studios that took part in the competition, the winner is the design of the French-Czech association AREP ARCHITECTES - monom. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2029.

The jury praised the winning design for the way in which the new transport junction integrates into the landscape, taking into account important landscape features in the wider surroundings. In terms of transport, it highlighted the clarity of all transfer links in the terminal and the very well-designed bus station. Given the terminal's expected capacity of up to 6,000 passengers per day, that is up to 300 passengers per hour at peak times, jury appreciated the short transfer routes between the different modes of transport, which the design effectively addresses.

"After Prague East and Roudnice nad Labem Terminals, Jihlava Terminal is the third terminal in a row that knows its future shape. As in previous cases, Jihlava Terminal will be a transfer hub between high-speed rail, local public transport, and other modes of transport. As a result, fast connections will increase accessibility to jobs and education while boosting regional life, fundamentally changing the general perception of concepts such as distance and rurality," says Minister of Transport Martin Kupka.

The competition focused on integrating the terminal into the landscape and landscaping the public space, as well as the railway flyover over the D1 motorway and related structures. The Jihlava Terminal will serve as a key interchange between the high-speed line (HSL/VRT) and public and passenger transport in Vysočina. The main criteria for selecting the winning design were therefore the quality of the urban, transport, landscape and environmental solutions as well as the economic efficiency of the investment costs.

"The new terminal will support both long-distance travels and daily commuting within the concept of fast railway connections. Moreover, the integration of HSL into the conventional railway network and the efforts to achieve climate neutrality show that this is a project with far-reaching significance not only for Vysočina, but for the entire Czech Republic," said Jiří Svoboda, Director General of Správa železnic.

Due to the exposed location of the new terminal near the regional city and the D1 motorway, it can be assumed that after completion there will be significant development of the surrounding area, which will be reflected in the growing economic performance of the entire region. Up to 118 trains pass through the Jihlava Terminal daily. Twice in an hour, a high-speed connection will stop here, which will take 52 minutes to Prague and only 36 minutes to Brno.

"We want the terminal to be a minimalist and ecological landmark with a low energy footprint. It adapts to the topography of the site and uses existing infrastructure to limit additional construction," explained architect Igor Hobza, representative of the winning association AREP ARCHITECTES – monom.

In the competition, the jury also appreciated the works of MS Architects and the Association Pelčák a partner architekti + HBH Projekt + Link projekt, which took second and third place. In addition, all of the submitted designs provided remarkable partial suggestions and interesting solutions. The public will be able to see them at an exhibition at the House of Culture and Trade Unions in Jihlava on Tolstého Street from 27 March to 17 April 2024.